United Nations A/C.2/67/SR.4

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
11 January 2013

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 9 October 2012, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Arias Orozco** (El Salvador) said that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should be strengthened in order to lay the foundations for better global political and economic governance. Moreover, since development was crucial to eradicating poverty, appropriate resources should be mobilized for that purpose. Any action undertaken by the various regional, subregional and international mechanisms should be consistent with the development agenda of the United Nations system.

2. South-South cooperation was no substitute for — but could only complement — ODA. Moreover, per capita income should not be the main criterion for determining where aid went. A better alternative would be to direct aid to where it could fill structural gaps; that way it would have a more far-reaching impact on development. Given that the economic crisis had slowed growth, ODA should be maintained for developing countries, including those in Latin America, in order to help them reactivate their economies.

3. With regard to sustainable development, the world was facing major challenges, most notably the need to restore the ecological balance and achieve equitably distributed economic growth in order to eliminate poverty and create opportunities. It would therefore be essential to work hard at all levels in order to implement the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

4. Finally, she said that it was important to change unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. That could be achieved through transfers of technology and capacity-building, and with financial resources on favourable conditions in accordance with he commitments made at the various United Nations conferences on development. In that connection, and given the ever-greater economic impact of natural disasters on the developing countries, she stressed the need for additional financial resources in order to help them adapt to climate change.

5. **Mr. Motanyane** (Lesotho) said that the food crisis continued to affect most developing countries, the main culprit being human action that tampered with mother Earth. Drought, floods and acute land degradation had increased his county's vulnerability to climate change and were undermining the national adaptation plans of action. The country was responding by, inter alia, scaling up conservation farming and cooperating with regional and international partners on such things as research in drought-resistant crops and development of infrastructure for stockpiling crops. The impact of climate change on entire ecosystems was a major concern.

6. He expressed the hope that the Almaty Ministerial Declaration, recently adopted by the Ministers of Trade of landlocked developing countries, would help to integrate those countries into the global trading system and stressed the need to highlight the plight of the least developed countries. Development of such countries' productive capacities had been prioritized in the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and Lesotho had already mainstreamed that Programme into its national development agenda in order to facilitate its graduation from the least developed countries category.

7. Underscoring the importance of foreign investment in fostering economic growth and development, he said that the policy commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus and in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development must be implemented.

8. Turning to the Rio+20 outcome document, he said that immediate attention should be paid to the following areas: intergovernmental negotiations for a common definition of the green economy concept; strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and reform of UNEP; and launching of intergovernmental negotiations to establish sustainable development goals in preparation for the post-2015 development agenda. His delegation also looked forward to the creation of a council on sustainable development to facilitate the implementation of the decisions made at Rio.

9. Finally, he said that the current Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) should focus on how to implement country programmes through an increase share of core funding for operational activities.

10. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) drew the Committee's attention to two initiatives announced by the President of Kazakhstan that were complementary to ideas enshrined in the Rio+20 outcome document: the "Green Bridge", aimed at promoting partnerships among European, Asian and Pacific Ocean countries

for transition from traditional development mechanisms to new concepts of green development, new modalities for attracting private investment and new technologies; and the "Global Energy and Ecological Strategy on sustainable development in the 21st Century".

11. Noting that many States were excluded from the Group of 20 process, despite the need for a more inclusive framework of global economic governance, the President of Kazakhstan had also proposed the creation of a G-Global group of nations to build on the role of the G-20 in formulating international economic policy focused on an anti-crisis plan; that group would be based within the Astana Economic Forum. She invited all delegations to support Kazakhstan's initiative to organize an international anti-crisis conference at Astana the following year.

12. Finally, noting that the outcome documents of two recent meetings on the issue of trade held in Kazakhstan would be distributed as official documents of the General Assembly, she stressed the need to unlock international trade negotiations and build a balanced and rules-based economic framework (A/67/386).

13. **Ms. Ali** (Lebanon) said that, in order for the international community to achieve the MDGs by 2015, developed countries must meet their ODA commitments. Lebanon had made significant progress towards achieving the Goals and it supported the efforts for a green economy as a tool for achieving sustainable development. However, the green economy should not be envisaged apart from the needs of national economies. The financial base of UNEP must be enlarged in order and further steps should be taken to enhance cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements. The various regional commissions also had a major role to play in integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and should be supported.

14. Conflict and occupation were major obstacles to sustainable development. The Palestinian people continued to face difficulties in accessing natural resources crucial to their development. In that connection she recalled that the strike in 2006 by the Israeli Air Force on fuel storage tanks in the vicinity of Jiyeh had caused the worst recorded environmental disaster in the eastern Mediterranean.

15. Finally, she said that the Committee should address youth unemployment, women's empowerment and protection of natural resources.

16. **Mr. Wayne** (Liberia), recalling that, at their meeting in 1999, the leaders of West Africa had committed themselves to prioritizing a stable and affordable supply of energy for their citizens, said that the West Africa Power Pool project was a product of that decision. Not only would the project strengthen cooperation among States in the region, building much-needed trust and partnerships among Governments and businesses, but it would also, by providing access to energy, spur growth and development in many areas. He therefore asked for the international community's continued support for the project. As the security mission of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) drew to a close Liberia would also need financial support to build its own security capabilities and to implement its recovery programmes.

17. Liberia continued to rely heavily on ODA to support its reconstruction and development efforts. His Government was therefore concerned about the decline in ODA, which would adversely affect countries' ability to meet the MDGs and to provide employment opportunities. It was particularly concerned about the future of young people. It therefore welcomed South-South cooperation — although the latter was not a substitute for ODA — and hoped the United Nations would support the African Union's decision to establish the African Solidarity Initiative (ASI) and would strengthen it.

18. Finally, his delegation welcomed the outcome of Rio+20 and called for renewed commitments to help to steer post-conflict countries towards peace and stability despite the challenges posed by the global economic downturn.

19. **Mr. Kim** Sook (Republic of Korea), summarizing some of the things that had been agreed on at Rio+20, said that the transition to a green economy had already begun to bring about structural changes in the global market. It was important for developing countries to be prepared for those changes.

20. Efforts to facilitate achieving the MDGs by 2015 must be intensified. The post-2015 development agenda should set out a set of goals that would meet the challenges of climate change, green growth and food security and address unemployment and poverty eradication. His delegation welcomed the

establishment of a high-level panel on the post-2015 development agenda and hoped that the panel would initiate regular consultations with the working group on sustainable development goals. In addition, the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review must provide clear guidance and a new policy framework consolidating the principles of ownership, accountability and transparency, while strengthening coherence among United Nations development agencies and broadening the donor base.

21. Given that the public sector was crucial to achieving the MDGs and sustainable development, developed countries should do their best to fulfil their current ODA commitments. His Government would endeavour to increase its own ODA. Finally, he said that global partnership for effective development cooperation, which had resulted from the forth high-level forum on aid effectiveness, could prove essential for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda since implementation would depend on a partnership comprising all development partners.

22. **Mr. Rodrigues dos Santos** (Brazil) said that, for economic growth to be sustained, sound macroeconomic and fiscal policies must be combined with effective social protection programmes. It was therefore essential to focus on the achievement of the MDGs. That implied mobilizing significant additional financial resources for development in a predictable manner. Consequently, the decline in ODA was disappointing.

23. South-South and triangular cooperation could contribute significantly as a complement to — never a substitute for — ODA and innovative sources of financing could also supplement traditional sources. Multilateral financial institutions must become more responsive to the need of the developing world. In that regard he expressed concern at the slow pace of implementation of the 2010 International Monetary Fund (IMF) governance and quota reform.

24. Rio+20 had reaffirmed the centrality of poverty eradication to sustainable development. Given the importance of sustainable development goals for the post-2015 development agenda, the relevant working group must be set up without delay. Other areas requiring increased effort were, inter alia, the establishment of the high-level political forum, the intergovernmental process on options for an effective sustainable development financing strategy and the facilitation mechanism for the promotion, development and transfer of clean technologies. Finally, as stated in the outcome document, sustainable development should be further integrated into the framework for United Nations activities.

25. To achieve those goals a more responsive United Nations development system was needed. Moreover, in addressing the challenges of international development cooperation it was necessary to achieve a healthy balance between core and non-core resources. In that context he stressed the need for reforms in the governance of United Nations funds and programmes so that programme countries could assume leadership over the management of the Organization's development system.

26. **Mr. Yaroshevich** (Belarus) said that the United Nations should take measures to reinvigorate the global economy and establish a reliable basis for sustainable development. Member States must work to implement the Rio+20 decisions and full use should be made of the capacities of the United Nations system in helping countries to move towards a green economy. Moreover, an open working group on sustainable development goals must be set up promptly. One of those goals should be to meet the expanding need for new and renewable sources of energy. Transfer of technology and experience was also paramount.

27. The United Nations was making insufficient use of the potential of many middle income countries and the resources of regional economic associations, such as the single economic space consisting of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. The QCPR should lead to a set of measures aimed at ensuring sustainable development for all countries receiving United Nations assistance. His delegation was concerned at the decline in core resources for operational activities and believed that development financing must be stabilized by enlarging the base of donors and promoting public-private partnerships.

28. **Mr. Diallo** (Senegal) said that the implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document should dovetail with the pursuit of the MDGs. Member States and development partners must transform their political commitments into appropriate action. Priority should be given to decisions relating to the implementation of international instruments concerning the environment, specifically climate change and desertification. Further progress was needed, including the conclusion of a

new global agreement as successor to the Kyoto Protocol after 2012.

29. Recurrent severe shocks linked to deep-seated dysfunctions of the global financial and economic system were affecting most of the developing countries, making it unlikely that they would attain the MDGs by 2015. He therefore called for substantial support to facilitate implementation of development policies geared to production and growth. Priority should be given to information and communication technologies, infrastructure, agriculture and energy. The traditional banking system should be strengthened and effective investment through a dynamic private sector should be encouraged. Moreover, since substantial foreign assistance would be needed, his delegation favoured the establishment of a viable cooperation framework capable of restoring ODA flows and providing appropriate aid to the least developed countries.

30. Finally, since a more open and equitable multilateral trading system was in order to stimulate economic growth every effort should be made to ensure that the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations resulted in an ambitious and balanced outcome.

31. **Mr. Al-Hamadi** (Qatar) said that the current world economic and financial crisis had harmed the least developed countries in particular, reducing the demand for goods and increasing unemployment. The considerable gains previously made in the fight against poverty had begun to be reversed and it was therefore imperative to intensify international cooperation for development, including by honouring the commitments made in the context of international development goals. The search for innovative approaches must also continue.

32. The interests of the poorest countries, must be the primary focus of efforts. It was vital to restructure the world financial system so as to provide developing countries with the necessary resources. At the same time reform was needed in order to revive the economies of developing countries through greater grants and debt forgiveness. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals would require global partnership and enormous funds. While there were some signs that recovery might be on the way steps would have to be taken to ensure that the developing countries benefited from such recovery.

33. The ongoing suspension of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations constituted a major threat to the multilateral trading system and the achievement of international development objectives. His delegation therefore hoped that the advanced countries would show the necessary flexibility so that the negotiations could be completed.

34. Finally, with regard to climate change, his delegation reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to the principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular that of common but differentiated responsibility, and to the continued implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Qatar would spare no effort to make the forthcoming eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC a success.

35. **Mr. De Vega** (Philippines) noted that, although the Rio+20 outcome document had been a significant achievement, many issues continued to divide the developed and developing nations. International cooperation through the United Nations and other international institutions was crucial to the attainment of the MDGs, a process which would have to be linked to the soon-to-be developed sustainable development goals.

36. His country had an important stake in having the ruinous effects of climate change reversed and he therefore called on the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to fully implement their commitments. Given that disaster risk reduction was necessary to the achievement of sustainable development, he called on States to include the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in their development plans.

37. Noting that migration was a key element of development, he said that all nations, including host nations, should recognize the positive impact of migration. His delegation was looking forward to the Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Mauritius, and believed that the Committee should place special emphasis on the relevant resolution that it would be considering later in the session.

38. Lastly, he stated that prospects for a peace agreement between the Philippine Government and the

Moro Islamic National Liberation Front (MILF) were currently bright.

39. **Mr. de Alba** (Mexico) said that now was a perfect opportunity for revitalizing the Organization's development agenda. In order not to waste scarce resources, there should be just one post-2015 development agenda which would link the ongoing negotiation processes and include a rule of law perspective. In that connection he cited some of the processes, such as those relating to the development of sustainable development goals and the establishment of a high-level political forum on sustainable development.

40. Secondly, he stressed the need to increase the coherence and effectiveness of the various bodies, starting with the Committee itself. The Chair of the Second Committee and the President of the Economic and Social Council could envisage having the agendas of two bodies streamlined. Moreover, preparations for the first session of the high-level political forum offered an opportunity to define those bodies' complementary roles. He stressed the need to reform the United Nations development system and suggested that the high-level political forum could periodically ensure coordination between, for example, the Council and the General Assembly.

41. **Mr. Ruiz** (Colombia) said that there should be a single sustainable development agenda, incorporating economic, social and environmental dimensions. Accordingly, there was an urgent need to develop a single set of sustainable development goals. Eliminating poverty was the main challenge.

42. Globalization and interdependence were closely linked to current commitments related to the attainment of the MDGs. The United Nations played a central role in that area. Since information and communication technologies (ICTs) were the key to economic and social development, every effort must be made to reduce the digital divide. At the same time the information society must respect cultural identity while facilitating dialogue among cultures and preserving diversity.

43. Middle income countries — which accounted for more than 80 per cent of the world's poor — were becoming active agents for knowledge exchange and could become strategic partners in the triangulation process benefiting less developed countries. They should therefore participate dynamically in efforts to attain the MDGs.

44. Operational activities for development should adopt a coordinated and articulated approach aimed at finding innovative and comprehensive solutions to economic, social and environmental problems. His delegation supported steps taken to reform the United Nations system and believed that it was essential to coordinate the programmes and projects of the various agencies in order to, inter alia, avoid redundancy, align action with national priorities, develop human resources, build national and local capacities and strengthen partnerships between United Nations agencies and national entities.

45. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco) said that, although some progress had been made in achieving the MDGs, much remained to be done. The global partnership for development should be at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda, be based on measurable objectives and have a clear schedule for implementation. With respect to the Doha Round of trade negotiations, Member States must show greater readiness to compromise in order to reach outcomes that would place development at the centre of the multilateral trade system, put an end to protectionist measures and reverse the steady decline in trade which was so essential for the developing countries.

46. In the follow-up to Rio+20, the means of implementation, including financial resources and technology transfer should be emphasized. Moreover, strengthening of the institutional framework for sustainable development was essential in order to enhance coordination and evaluate the commitments and policies related to sustainable development. The QCPR should meet the needs of developing countries based on the principle of national ownership and should take into account all the relevant major processes. The imbalance between core and non-core resources allocated to operational activities was a source of concern because it led to a fragmentation of those activities and reduced efficiency. Finally, although South-South cooperation contributed significantly to development it should not be viewed as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to, North-South cooperation.

47. **Mr. Ntwaagae** (Botswana) noted that several of the special events scheduled for the current session could help to throw light on some of the biggest concerns of — and enhance development cooperation

with — middle income countries. Focused discussions on macroeconomic and sustainable development issues could be achieved if all partners showed a spirit of compromise. His delegation hoped that Member States would have the courage to transform what had been achieved at Rio into actionable items.

48. Reviewing the status of the MDGs in 2013 should serve not only as a precursor to the formulation of the sustainable development goals, but also as a logical transition from the current development framework into a new one. It was necessary to establish which MDGs would continue to be crucial to improving people's living standards and which goals had already been achieved. The review could also provide useful lessons on why certain goals might not be delivered by 2015 and thereby help identify pitfalls that the international community should avoid in formulating a new framework for development. Lastly, he said that most of the countries in the South were looking forward to discussing the agenda on financing for development and to agreement on the modalities for the 10-year review of the Almaty Programme of Action.

49. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) called upon all countries to muster the political will necessary for implementing the Rio+20 outcomes in a timely manner. Countries interested in participating in the open working group on sustainable development goals should be flexible with regard to the allocation of seats to the five regional groups. Development of those goals must take into account the need for integration into the post-2015 development agenda and should not undermine the achievement of the MDGs. A high-level political forum for sustainable development should be established in order, inter alia, to strengthen the Economic and Social Council and the universalization of UNEP must be accompanied by increased financial resources from the regular budget.

50. In addition, facilitation mechanisms would be needed in relation to technology transfer and to deal with such things as climate change and energy shortages. Finally, in view of the fragility of the global economic and financial situation, a comprehensive reform of global economic and financial organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions, should be carried out expeditiously.

51. **Mr. Alibabaee** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the systemic problems facing the world economy must be resolved; in doing so would require reform of the global financial system. The United Nations was the sole body with the universal legitimacy required to address the issue of global economic governance with a view to achieving sustainable and socially balanced economic development. Accordingly, it must be equipped with the necessary resources.

52. While the Rio+20 outcome document had laid the foundations for the post-2015 framework, it fell short of expectations on issues of financial resources, technology transfer to developing countries and new commitments to action towards achievement of sustainable development. Had Governments implemented the many conventions and declarations that they had already negotiated, the world would be well on the way to sustainable development.

53. Climate change was one of the biggest challenges and would have long-term implications for sustainable development. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) constituted the primary forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and international response to climate change must be consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities outlined therein

54. Finally, he reaffirmed the importance of South-South cooperation — which was intended to complement North-South cooperation — adding that his Government remained committed to promoting it, and had already taken steps to facilitate safe transportation for its landlocked neighbours.

55. **Mr. Toure** (Guinea) stated that the post-2015 development agenda must reflect the compiementarity between the MDGs and the sustainable development goals. It planned to place sustainable development at the heart of its national economic programme and to contribute to the promotion of a green economy in Western Africa. Progress had also been made in the area of peacebuilding, particularly with respect to national reconciliation, security sector reform and employment for youth and women.

56. Turning to developments in his own country, he said that his Government had undertaken far-reaching political, economic and social reforms which, it hoped, would free up considerable financial resources that could be invested in social sectors so as to reduce poverty.

57. Referring to the post-2015 development agenda, and in view of recent steps taken by the international

community to promote South-South and triangular cooperation he called on all Member States and development partners to support that new initiative of solidarity with Africa. Lastly, he expressed confidence in the ability of the United Nations to deal with the major challenges currently facing the world.

58. **Mr. Nay** (Cambodia) said that, in view of the global economic and financial crisis, all regions of the world should identify ways of stimulating growth. Increased competition for natural resources could only exacerbate the food security situation.

59. Accordingly, Cambodia was implementing strategies to achieve the MDGs and enhance food security while, at the same time, improving ecotourism and moving ahead with newer strategies to develop the tourism sector as a new vision towards sustainable development.

60. In accordance with the Rio+20 recommendations, extensive investment should be encouraged so as to modernize small-scale agricultural projects around the world. The fact that a number of developing countries were seeking to develop green technologies demonstrated that development and environmental protection could go hand in hand. Knowledge-sharing networks were crucial because only if developing and developed countries worked together would the world remain fit for future generations.

61. **Mr. Ngculu** (South Africa) said that the persistence of the global recession had once again exposed the need for urgent reform of the international financial architecture. Given that the huge inequalities within and among countries would have multiple implications for the United Nations development system, it was essential to strengthen the role of the United Nations in global economic governance.

62. Despite the continent's abundant natural resources, African countries were unlikely to meet their MDG targets. Accordingly, substantial additional investment in agriculture would be needed to ensure adequate food supplies. There was also a need for policies to promote economic diversification and productivity growth.

63. Noting the ongoing work to set sustainable development goals, he said that it should not deflect attention from the attainment of the MDGs. There was a need for a balanced framework designed to enhance coherence and strengthen coordination.

64. Finally, he said that the strengthening of South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation should be a critical outcome of the United Nations development system. The guidance provided to the United Nations system through the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) was of the utmost importance in that regard.

65. **Mr. Wang** Min (China) said that the United Nations development agenda had entered a crucial bridging period. At the current session, the General Assembly should focus on the following aspects.

66. First, the political will of the international community should be mobilized in order to expedite the attainment of the MDGs. The developed countries, should honour their commitments with regard to financial assistance, technology transfer and capacity-building.

67. Second, the United Nations must play a central role in strengthening global economic governance. To that end, the United Nations should play a greater role in international economic affairs and strengthen dialogue and coordination with multilateral financial institutions and the G-20 with a view to increasing the representation of developing countries. The Doha Round of trade negotiations should be expedited so as to establish a reasonable and non-discriminatory international trade system.

68. Third, the implementation of the Rio+20 outcome should be accelerated and an open working group must be set up in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution to put forward recommendations on the formulation of a set of sustainable development goals. Discussion on sustainable development financing strategy must be initiated as soon as possible.

69. Fourth, the international community should set its sights on the post-2015 development agenda and consolidate the development partnership. The new agenda should maintain the existing framework for development cooperation and strengthen the global development partnership.

70. For its part, China intended to continue to fulfil its responsibilities and obligations and work with other Member States to promote the sustained recovery and growth of the world economy and the attainment of the MDGs.

The meeting rose at 12.58 p.m.